

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 COME-00 H-01 FCSC-01 FRB-03 /035 W
-----018943 010622Z /12
R 301530Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3054
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BRUSSELS FOR US TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSIONER

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN, PGOV, CZ
SUBJECT: CLAIMS/GOLD: FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS TO ASSEMBLY

1. IN RESPONSE TO A DELEGATE'S QUERY FONMIN CHNOUPEK READ A LENGTHY REPORT ON CLAIMS/GOL BTO A JOINT SESSION OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 29. REPORT AS PRINTED IN NAHSPAPERS WAS GENERALLY A FACTUAL ACCOUNT AND MORE DETAILED THAN MOST PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE ISSUE. CHNOUPEK GAVE THE HISTORY OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, QUOTED SECTION 408 OF THE TRADE ACT AND ALSO NOTED SECTION 402 (JACKSON/VANIK), AND REFERRED TO THE SUIT BROUGHT BY MERRINGAN.

2. CHNOUPEK SAID CONSEQUENCES OF NON-SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS/GOLD ARE THAT "...OUR MFES WITH THE USA STAGNATE, ACTIONS ON RELATIONS DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY ROGERS HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED, EXCHANGE OF RATIFICATION PAPERS ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, MUTUAL TRADE EXCHANGE HAS BEEN PARALYZED, NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE WAS DELAYED FOR THREE YEARS. IN OTHER WORDS, OUR RELATIONS DO NOT ACCORD WITH THE TENDENCY TOWARD RELAXATION OF TENSIONS CURRENTLY PREVALENT IN THE WORLD."

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3. CHNOUPEK CONCLUDED WITH SEVERAL FAIRLY EMOTIONAL PARAGRAPHS PLACING THE BURDEN FOR RESOLVING CLAIMS/GOLD ON THE USG AND CLAIMING RIGHT IS ON THE SIDE OF THE GOC. RLIK WE NOTE THAT THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE PAPER, RUDE PRAVO, CARRIED AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE SPEECH WHICH LEFT OUT REFERENCE TO JACKSON/VANIK AND THE MERRIGAN SUIT, AS WELL AS SOME

OF CHNOUPEK'S MORE EMOTIONAL PHRASES. NO PAPER CARRIED THE FULL TEXT WHICH FROM EXCERPTS WE SAW ON TV INCLUDED ADDITIONAL DEMAGOGIC SELF-PITY ON THE "POOR LITTLE CZECHOSLOVAKIA" THEME.

5. COMMENT: MFA SIFPH DEPARTMENT DEPUTY NOVOTNY TOLD US HIS CHIEF ZANTOVSKY HAD TO SCURRY JUNE 28 TO PREPARE DETAILED REPLY TO QUERY BY A PEOPLE'S PARTY DELEGATE FOR DELIVERY FOLLOWING DAY, WHEN CHNOUPEK DECIDED HE WANTED TO LAY OUT FULL HISTORY INSTEAD OF USING THE ALREADY PREPARED SHORT REPLY SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN AT RECENT JOINT FA SESSIONS. WE SEE IN CHNOUPEK'S EXTENDED REPLY

BOTH ANOTHER BIT OF BUILDING A RECORD FOR BELGRADE II AND, PERHAPS, THE INTENT TO GIVE THE US A PUBLIC REMINDER ON CLAIMS/GOLD AS THE AMBASSADOR PREPARES TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION AND HOME LEAVE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOLD, CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE01797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770235-0015
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977063/aaaaabxx.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b06f6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2064909
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLAIMS/GOLD: FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS TO ASSEMBLY
TAGS: EFIN, PGOV, CZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b06f6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009